

S.E.C.R.E.T

Chief of [] []

Chief of [] []

Chief, WE

Letters Allegedly Written by Stepan BARTERA

ACTION REQUIRED: Discussion with JAGWAR

1. Attachments A and B are translations of the highlights of a letter allegedly written by Stepan BARTERA and the letter of transmittal sent by an unidentified individual to the ARCASSOHN/1 newspaper office in Munich, Germany in January 1961 and to the editor of ARCASSOHN 3A in Frankfurt. (In your discussion with JAGWAR please describe ARCASSOHN/1 and [] as contacts in Germany.)

2. The alleged BARTERA letter was signed "WERNER" (a name used by BARTERA) in the same handwriting as that of the handwritten portion of the letter. The handwritten portion of this letter and a twelve-year old sample of BARTERA's handwriting supplied by ARCASSOHN/2 were compared by KUBARK analysts who stated that: "A basis for the association of the handwriting in the original letter with the handwritten postscript could not be found. While there is some similarity between the two writings, there are several irreconcilable differences which preclude an identification. The span of twelve years between the writings and the limited quantity of writing in the postscript were obstacles to a thorough comparison."

3. Neither [] nor ARCASSOHN/1 plan to bargain for the additional documents to which the writer claims to have access. However, JAGWAR may be interested in helping to identify the document peddler who is trying to use Bank of Montreal Account No. 7217 in Toronto and to determine what connection, if any, the real holder of this bank account may have to the document peddler. Through a sensitive source we learned that the holder of the bank account is a Miss Daphne Ellis WOODS. SWALK investigated her account and reported that Miss WOODS, a native of England, had been in Canada but because of illness in her family, she had returned to the United Kingdom in January 1954. Her date of birth was given as January 1920 and her address in England as 9 Sheep Cottage, Ferry Lane, Forest Hill, S. E. 23, London. She was last employed before leaving Canada as a clerk with the Canada Life Assurance Company, Toronto, Ontario. Bank Account No. 7217 has been dormant since 1954 and still has a balance credited to it of \$5.40. SWALK files reflect no detrimental information on Miss WOODS; and persons interviewed concerning her have likewise reported nothing derogatory. SWALK has cleared this information concerning Miss WOODS for KUBARK discussion with Security Liaison.

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DATE 2007

8 August 1961

10 AUG 1961

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4. Since MURKIN has been dead for more than a year, it is thought that this letter peddling may be a KGB project. There have been other letters of this type but the payment for the information offered was to be made through other channels than the bank account No. 7217.

5. We would like you to discuss these letters with JACKAU and to ask if any such letters have come to their attention. Additionally, we would like to ask JACKAU for a new trace on Miss MURKIN and for their comments on Miss MURKIN's connection, if any to the document peddler. The big question in our mind is: Because this is a numbered account to which supposedly only Miss MURKIN has access, how does the document peddler expect to withdraw any deposits made to this account without the true holder's knowledge? Apparently he has not been very successful in selling his information since the account reflects no transactions for nearly seven years.

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